

August 9, 2002

VIA HAND DELIVERY

Mary L. Cottrell, Secretary
Department of Telecommunications and Energy
One South Station, Second Floor
Boston, Massachusetts 02110

Re: *Competitive Market Initiatives*, D.T.E. 01-54-B

Dear Secretary Cottrell:

Western Massachusetts Electric Company ("WMECO") is in receipt of the Department of Telecommunications and Energy's July 29, 2002 Order on Competitive Market Initiatives. WMECO is working to comply fully with the directives in the Department's Order and it believes it can do so in most cases in the timeline envisioned by the Department.

With respect to two directives, however, WMECO respectfully requests an extension of time to be able to make the ordered changes (or a clarification rendering no extension necessary). First, with respect to adding a unique customer identifier and zonal and nodal information to the Customer Information Lists, WMECO must make significant computer system programming changes in order to effect these results. The Competitive Working Group report submitted to the Department acknowledges the need for these changes. *See* D.T.E. 01-54-B (p. 15, n.6). Therefore, WMECO will not be able to modify its Customer Information Lists to add the customer identifier in the short period left prior to September 1, 2002. WMECO estimates that it can finish the task in approximately an additional eight weeks. Accordingly, WMECO respectfully requests an extension to November 1, 2002 to put into place the unique customer identifier and zonal and nodal information.

Second, the Department has ordered that WMECO and other electric distribution companies expand the Customer Information Lists to include information about customers of competitive suppliers by September 2002. D.T.E. 01-54-B (p. 21). WMECO is prepared to make this information available as of next month. However, the Department also stated that competitive supply customers should have an opportunity to "opt out" of inclusion on such a list "consistent with the procedures established in D.T.E. 01-54-A at 25-27...." The opt-out procedure established in D.T.E. 01-54-A required monthly notices to customers in two

consecutive months. It is clear that there is not time for two monthly notices prior to September 2002. Accordingly, WMECO requests an extension to the provision of competitive supply customer information to November 1, 2002. In the alternative, should the Department decide that the opt-out procedures previously followed by WMECO for other customer information, pursuant to D.T.E. 01-54-A is sufficient, WMECO will provide the competitive supply customer information on the Customer Information Lists next month.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Very truly yours,

Stephen Klionsky

cc: Paul G. Afonso
Jeannie Voveris
Ronald LeComte
Barry Perlmutter
D.T.E. 02-54 Service List (electronically)